

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 0617Z 140309Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 SY-05 MCT-02 OMB-01
TRSE-00 PC-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /071 W
-----010649 150311Z /20
R 122220Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 925

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB PE
SUBJ: TEACHER'S STRIKE CONTINUES

REF: LIMA 6086

1. THE GOP EFFORTS TO BREAK SUTEP'S TEACHER STRIKE (REFTEL)
APPEAR TO HAVE HAD ONLY VERY LIMITED SUCCESS INITIALLY IN THE
LIMA/CALLAO AREA. UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATES ARE THAT TEACHER ABSENTEEISM
JULY 10, 11, 12 REMAINED UNCHANGED FROM THE PAST WEEK'S RATE.
MOST PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS STILL ARE NOT RPT NOT OPERATING.

2. RUMORS ARE NOW CIRCULATING THAT A GENERAL STRIKE IN SUPPORT
OF SUTEP IS BEING CONSIDERED BY VARIOUS COMMUNIST GROUPS. THE
UDP (PEKING-LINE COMMUNISTS) HAVE CHAMPIONED SUTEP'S CAUSE AND
FOR SEVERAL WEEKS HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR A GENERAL SYMPATHY
STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF THE TEACHERS. EMBASSY HAS HEARD INFORMALLY
THAT THE MOSCOW-LINE BANKWORKERS FEDERATION (A KEY GROUP IN
THE COMMUNIST LABOR CONFEDERATION CGTP) IS NOW CONSIDERING A ONE
DAY STRIKE IN SYMPATHY WITH SUTEP. THERE IS ALSO CONCERN THAT
ELECTIONS IN THE UNIVERSITIES JULY 14 WILL PROVIDE ANOTHER OCCA-
SION FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO PROTEST GOP'S HANDLING OF THE
TEACHER STRIKE.

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3. PARENTS ASSOCIATIONS OF SOME SCHOOLS REFUSED TO SEND THEIR
CHILDREN TO CLASSES JULY 10 AS AN EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY WITH
SUTEP. IN GENERAL, THE GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED REPORTS OF SERIOUS
PARENTAL OPPOSITION TO SUTEP APPEAR UNFOUNDED. HOWEVER, PARENTS
ARE CONCERNED OVER POSSIBILITY THAT THEIR CHILDREN MAY LOSE AN
ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR AS A RESULT OF THE CURRENT IMPASSE BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND THE TEACHERS.

4. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS JULY 12, "OFFICIAL SOURCES" HAVE DENIED CATEGORICALLY THAT ANY TEACHERS HAVE DIED DURING THE SUTEP PROTESTS AS WELL AS ANOTHER RUMOR THAT DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARENT ASSOCIATIONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF ITS DETERMINATION TO AVOID NEGOTIATING WITH OR RECOGNITION OF SUTEP, THE GOP EDUCATION MINISTRY SENT NEWLY HIRED TEACHERS TO SOME LIMA SCHOOLS JULY 11 AND 12 TO REPLACE STRIKERS.

DECON 12-80. SHLAUDEMAM

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NNN

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